

New Haven Township

OLMSTED COUNTY, MINNESOTA – EST. 1858

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9024 COUNTY ROAD 3 NW, OROCOCO, MN 55960

New Haven Township Regular Meeting Minutes October 8, 2024

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by Chair Ann Fahy-Gust at 6:30 PM. Supervisors David Andrist and Dale Thomforde were present to constitute a quorum. Also present were Treasurer Robert Figy, and Clerk Bonnie Kosmicki.

Set Agenda and Order – Supervisor Thomforde made a motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Supervisor Andrist. Motion carried.

Comments from Chair – Chair Fahy-Gust commented that we are having a beautiful fall and a note to be aware of farm equipment on the road and give them plenty of space.

Comments from the Public – Chris and Ian Swanton, 11485 85th St NW, Pine Island, addressed the township board. Ian expressed concern regarding the overflow drain installed for a pond built by their neighbors that is next to a shared driveway. Swanton's concern is that the overflow drains directly to the culvert under the driveway and if not maintained appropriately or abundant rain, may cause damage to their property. It was Swanton's understanding that TCPA would provide a copy of an engineering guarantee indicating no erosion would happen beyond what could normally be expected. Swanton did not receive this document but does have a copy of the original plans for the pond. Swanton's were not given the opportunity to express any input regarding any potential impact the overflow drain to their property. During the permitting process, the neighbor was directed by TCPA to involve Swanton's in discussion; however, this did not occur. An engineering report will be provided to Swanton. Swanton was encouraged to contact TCPA is he has any questions regarding any building permits submitted to them involving neighboring properties.

TCPA Metes and Bounds Subdivision – Kermit and Jean Christenson, 11812 New Haven Rd NW. The request is straightforward. TCPA recommended approval of the metes and bounds subdivision. The board had no concerns or questions. Andrist made a motion to approve the Christenson subdivision, Thomforde seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Consent Agenda – Fahy pointed out that the date on the minutes was correct but the date on the agenda was incorrect and should be corrected to reflect September 10, 2024. Thomforde made a motion to approve September 10, 2024, meeting minutes as written, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

Solar Farms– The board has had an opportunity to review the draft solar ordinance with TCPA and Chris Hawkins, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Advisory Commission, and discussed their questions and concerns for provisions within the document. The proposed ordinance requirements are consistent with Rochester and other township's ordinances. Discussion occurred regarding the proposed distance of buffer yards, setbacks, and percentage of prime farmland utilized. It was noted that there is currently no township engineer and suggested utilizing the county engineer. Other wording changes were discussed such as the ordinance would not include solar panels on houses, barns, and other out buildings that are specifically for personal use. Additional modifications and amendments to the draft were discussed comparative to requirements for rock quarries and impact on neighboring properties. The maximum size of the solar field will need to be determined, 1 vs 5 mega-watts. There are currently no mechanisms to follow up on conditional use permits and compliance with letters of credit. Decommissioning and cleaning requirements will need more

discussion. Fahy proposed that the supervisors continue to review the document and send their comments to the clerk who will combine all comments in one document to be reviewed at the November meeting.

Road Inspection Summary – Clerk Kosmicki spoke with the resident at 8605 115th St NW, and she understands the bushes are in the right of way and may be removed. Clerk Kosmicki also contacted County engineer regarding the bridge on 85th Street. He provided several times that he is available to meet. Supervisor Andrist will contact him and set up a time to meet. Supervisor Thomforde wondered if any additional right of way would be necessary if the bridge is replaced. Letters were drafted to be sent to the four individuals whose asphalt driveways encroach on the right of way and are higher than shoulder, creating a situation where they could be damaged when snow plowing. Swing-away mailbox posts can be provided and installed for residents at no cost at their request. Mailboxes are not provided. Supervisor Fahy posted this information of the township Facebook page. Mike Woods was asked to begin working on the issues addressed in the road report as he has time. Thomforde made a motion to approve the Fall Road Inspection minutes, and Fahy seconded. Motion carried 3-0

New Business

Cannabis Business Registrations Resolution– Thomforde made a motion to adopt the resolution delegating cannabis registration authority for New Haven Township to Olmsted County. Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Voter Funds Resolution – Thomforde made a motion to adopt the resolution delegating Voting Operations, Technology, and Election Resources (VOTER) account funds to Olmsted County, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Absentee Voting Administration – Previously, the township administered absentee voting for the March township elections. The County has offered to administer this for the township. Discussion included that there would no longer be the need for the township hall being open for absentee voting from 10:00 to 12:00 prior to a township election since the County would handle. Absentee voters would need to go to the County elections office in Rochester or submit requests by mail. When the notice for the election is published, this information would be included. Thomforde made a motion to adopt the resolution delegating absentee voting administration for township elections to Olmsted County. Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Presidential Election Judge Roster - There are eleven judges on the roster. This will allow at least six judges to be present per shift. Thomforde made a motion to adopt the resolution appointing election judges for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The eleven judges are David Andrist, Ginger Roberts-Carson, Ann Fahy-Gust, Bonnie Kosmicki, Jeff Lee, Donna Beyer, Dale Thomforde, Erin Grout, Bob Madsen, Larry Mattson, and Bob Figy. Bonnie Kosmicki is appointed as head judge, Dale Thomforde as alternate head judge. Fahy seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

TCPA Recap – Thomforde attended the meeting this month. Normal reports were given to include building permits and finances. Staffing payroll is higher than usual as there are currently three employees during this training period. This will resolve at the end of the year when David Meir retires. Work continues on the flood plain ordinance. TCPA bylaws changes have not been approved as of yet as not all townships have submitted their input. TCPA confirmed it is not an enforcement agency, which left up to the townships and code enforcement.

Olmsted County Township Officers Association Recap - All three supervisors attended. There was discussion of the cannabis regulations and licensing. There have been 13 licenses applied for and one remaining. A county commissioner was bitten by two dogs when he was out campaigning resulting in a hospitalization. The annual meeting was conducted. The annual dues will remain the same next year. The officer

reimbursement amount for attending the meeting in St. Cloud was increased to \$300.00. A DNR representative discussed townships issuing burn permits and the annual permit option from the DNR. Dale Thomforde is the Fire Warden for New Haven Township and can issue 1 or 3-day burn permits.

Road Report – Mike Wood reported the mowing is done. Town hall lot has been mowed. 110th Street has been graded.

Treasurer Report – Figy provided a detailed report for the financial transactions for the month of September.

Frandsen Bank -	Checking Account	\$ 4994.31
	Money Market Account	\$101,424.00
	Less Outstanding Checks	\$ 230.00
	Total Deposits	\$106,188.31
	JP Morgan Chase, 5.02% (semi-annual) 1/6/2025	\$100,000.00
	Wells Fargo of South Dakota 5.2% 2/26/2025	\$ 50,000.00
	Flagstar Bank 4.7% (semi-annual) 7/25/2025	\$100,000.00
	Total Investments	\$250,000.00
Total Deposits		\$356,188.31

Thomforde made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Andrist seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Figy received a message from Frandsen Bank regarding a CD that has been called by LPL Financial. Jeanette has information regarding potentially investing in another CD. Figy will contact her and provide information to the board at the next meeting so a decision can be made as far as investing.

Review/Pay Bills – Clerk Kosmicki asked if Schedule 1 provided useful information to the board. The board would mainly like to know that the Schedule 1 balances with bank totals and when money is transferred into each fund. Claims list was presented and reviewed. Claims totaled \$14,423.56. Payroll taxes were paid this quarter. A check from McNamara for a third of the cost of tiling was received. These funds should be returned to the Road and Bridge Fund when deposited. Thomforde made a motion to pay all bills, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mail/Miscellaneous –

- A letter was received from Leashes and Leads expressing their interest in assisting with the impoundment and management of stray dogs. The letter will be kept on file.
- Clerk Kosmicki received a letter regarding upcoming MAT training in November that she will be attending.
- Information was received from Elk Run/Prairie Island Indian Community regarding non gaming land acquisition. There are parcels that go across the highway, the city wants to be able to split and give back to New Haven so that it stays in New Haven Township. The city will be submitting a proposal. Fahy will read the document and report back.
- Thomforde has put up maps in the hall for the proposed Mankato to Mississippi River powerline. The PUC (MN Public Utilities Commission) held a meeting and is studying the different alternative routes.

Adjournment – Thomforde made a motion to adjourn, Andrist seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Approved by the Board

Signed:

Signed:

/Signed copy on file/

Ann Fahy-Gust, Chair
New Haven Town Board

Bonnie Kosmicki
Township Clerk

Date:

Date:

TOWNSHIP MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending Balance of August, 2024 statement

3364.15

Income Checking Account

9/09	PEC (Const Permit) Ann Grane (Hall Rent)	350.00
9/11	Const Permit (Bevcom)	1600.00
9/23	(Hc) Rent Const Permit Woodburners)	625.00
9/11	Online Transfer From MM OA	14000.00
9/30	Interest	.58

Total Deposits

16575.58

Debits

4717	Dale Thomforde (Election Food-Flags)	198.90
4719	Michael Bruce (PAC Mtg)	50.00
4720	Leon Plantz (PAC Mtg)	50.00
4721	Karl Toft (PAC Mtg)	50.00
4722	Barbara Allen (PAC Mtg)	50.00
4723	Chris Hawkins (PAC Mtg)	50.00
4725	Fogarty Outdoor Service (Lawn Care)	480.00
20685	Wages	574.04
20686	Wages	140.00
20687	Wages	1038.85
20688	Wages	833.00
20689	Wages	663.22
	Bevcomm	78.25
	Calligan	63.95
	PEC	242.65
4713	Michael Wood (Road Maint)	6559.00
4714	Rochester Sweeping Service (Road Repair)	600.00
4715	Hemann Grover and Co. (Payroll)	142.00
4716	LaVonne Kosmicki (Mileage-Elec Judge)	81.28

Total Debits

14945.42

New Ending Balance of September, 2024 statement

4994.31

